

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action mailed August 27, 2010, has been reviewed and the following remarks are responsive thereto. By this paper, claims 61-67 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Upon entry of this paper, claims 30-74 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Interview of November 4, 2010

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies in the Interview conducted on November 4, 2010. In the interview, Applicants and the Examiner discussed the double patenting rejection and the differences between the pending claims of the instant application and the claims of Application No. 10/261,931. During the interview, it was agreed that the double patenting rejection should be withdrawn in view of those differences. This response reflects the substance of the interview.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 61-67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. To expedite prosecution, claims 61-67 have been amended as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 30, 36, 42, 48, 54, 61 and 68 stand provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 26 of co-pending Application No. 10/261,931 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,155,591 to Wachob and U.S. Patent No. 4,775,935 to Yourick.

This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

As stated above, during the interview it was agreed that the double patenting rejection should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 30, 36, 42, 48, 54, 61 and 68 are in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/724,123
Reply to Office Action of August 27, 2010

Claims 31-35, 37-41, 43-47, 49-53, 55-60, 62-67 and 69-74 all depend from one of independent claims 30, 36, 42, 48, 54, 61 and 68, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claim and further in view of the various novel and non-obvious features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3317.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 29, 2010

By: /Evan M. Clark/
Evan M. Clark
Registration No. 64,836
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1100 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
Telephone: 202-824-3000
Facsimile: 202-824-3001